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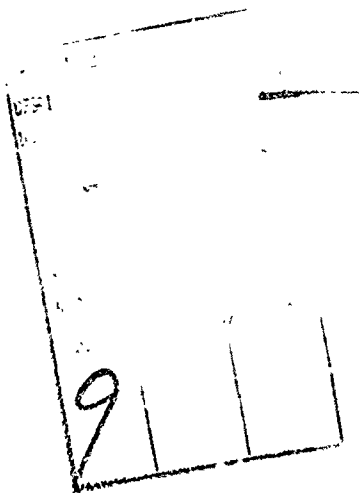
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5th Battalion, 2d Artillery



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 5TH BATTALION (AW)(SP) 2D ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96266

AVFB-FAG-C

1 February 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 5th Battalion (AW)(SP) 2d Artillery
for the Period ending 31 January 1970, RCS CJFGR-65 (R2) (U)

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1. (C) Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities

a. Administration/Personnel:

(1) During the reporting period replacements were received in sufficient numbers to fulfill operational requirements. However, during the first week in January 1970 the enlisted strength dropped from 91% to 87% of the authorized figure. Sufficient replacements were received during the following week to bring the battalion strength up to 94% of the authorized strength.

(2) The formation of Task Force North to support the 1st Cavalry Division (See b(1) below) posed no major personnel or administrative problems. Although the task force commander has operational control over the weapons, equipment, and personnel comprising the task force, he does not exercise Article 15 jurisdiction over the personnel. This jurisdiction remains with the respective battery commanders whose units provide personnel for the task force. Personnel remain on the morning reports of their respective batteries.

(3) During the reporting period the following awards were presented to assigned and attached personnel:

<u>AWARDS</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>
Silver Star	2
Bronze Star (Valor)	2
Bronze Star (Meritorious Service and Achievement)	33

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<u>AWARDS</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>
Air Medal	6
Army Commendation Medal (Valor)	56
Army Commendation Medal (Meritorious Service and Achievement)	89
Purple Heart	8

(4) The following awards were presented to the 5th Battalion (AW)(SP) 2d Artillery or assigned and attached elements, as indicated:

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Meritorious Unit Commendation (Period of 5 April 1968 to 30 September 1968)	5th Bn (AW)(SP) 2d Arty and Attached Units
The Presidential Unit Citation (Army) (Period of 18 August to 20 September 1968)	1st Platoon, Battery B, 5th Bn (AW)(SP) 2d Arty

(5) The battalion headquarters was engaged in normal operations during the reporting period with emphasis placed on strengthening the perimeter defense of the headquarters compound.

(6) There was one administrative move of a battery headquarters during the reporting period. (See b(2) below.)

(7) Battalion personnel statistics as of 31 January 1970.

(a) Current Strength:

	<u>AUTHORIZED</u>			<u>ASSIGNED</u>		
	OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
5th Bn (AW)(SP) 2d Arty	37	2	653	34	3	600
Btry I (SLT) 29th Arty	8	0	142	6	0	130
Btry D (MG) 71st Arty	2	0	140	3	0	128
	47	2	935	43	3	858

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(b) Gains and Losses 1 November 1969 - 31 January 1970:

	<u>GAINS</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>
5th Bn (AV)(SP) 2d Arty	125	142
Btry I (JLT) 29th Arty	42	39
Btry D (MG) 71st Arty	<u>43</u>	<u>40</u>
	210	221

(c) Casualties 1 November 1969 - 31 January 1970

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Died of Battle Wounds	0
Killed in Action	0
Wounded in Action	5
Missing in Action	0
Non-Battle Deaths	2

(d) R & R Experience:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>JAN</u>
Australia	16	7	5
Bangkok	9	5	6
Hawaii	10	13	17
Hong Kong	2	0	2
Manila	2	5	1
Singapore	0	0	1
Taipei	0	0	0
Tokyo	0	1	0
In-Country	<u>16</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>15</u>
	55	53	47

(8) Current organizational structure of the 5th Battalion (AV)(SP) 2d Artillery and attached units is at Inclosure 1.

b. Operations:

(1) General: The reporting period was characterized by the repositioning of automatic weapons and searchlight assets consistent with the changing tactical situation. Due to the release of assets of the 4th Battalion (AV)(SP) 60th Artillery from support of the 1st Cavalry Division,

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it was necessary to position six M42A1 Dusters, four Quad caliber .50 machine guns, and five searchlights in the 1st Cavalry Division area of operations. In order to coordinate the operation of these assets, Task Force North was formed on 13 December 1969 at Phuoc Vinh. Although primarily a coordinating agency, Task Force North also has a limited administrative and logistical capability.

(2) Unit Missions:

(a) During the reporting period the battalion (and attached units) remained assigned to United States Army Vietnam and attached to II Field Force Vietnam, with operational control of the battalion's assets exercised by II Field Force Vietnam Artillery.

(b) Battery A was released from its mission of JFCOM to the 1st Infantry Division and was placed in General Support of the 1st Infantry Division effective 18 December 1969. In anticipation of the redeployment of the 1st Infantry Division, the Battery A headquarters element was relocated from Lai Khe (1st Infantry Division headquarters) to Phu Loi. The move commenced on 18 December 1969 and was completed on 21 December 1969. With the Battery A headquarters at Phu Loi, the battery will be better positioned to provide support to those units which present plans indicate the battery will support upon redeployment of the 1st Infantry Division.

(c) Battery B was released from its mission of JFCOM to the 25th Infantry Division and was placed in General Support of the 25th Infantry Division effective 18 December 1969. The battery headquarters remained at Cu Chi.

(d) Six M42A1's from Battery C were placed in General Support of the 3d Brigade, 9th Infantry Division on 18 December 1969. Ten Dusters remained in General Support of II Field Force Vietnam Artillery. These Dusters were deployed as follows: Two sections (four M42A1's) supporting the 23d Artillery Group; one section supporting the 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery; one section supporting the Australian Task Force; and one section supporting missions for II Field Force Vietnam Artillery. The battery headquarters is at Camp Price (YT 042115).

(e) Six Dusters from Battery D were placed in General Support of the 1st Cavalry Division on 14 December 1969. Ten Dusters remained in General Support of II Field Force Vietnam Artillery, with elements deployed as follows: Three sections supporting the 23d Artillery Group; one section supporting the 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery; and one section supporting the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Force (RTAVF). The battery headquarters is

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located at FSPB Concord (YT 034174).

(f) Battery D (MG) 71st Artillery remained in General Support of II Field Force Vietnam Artillery and attached to 5th Battalion (AW)(JP) 2d Artillery with firing elements deployed as follows: One section (four M-55's) supporting the 25th Infantry Division; one section supporting the 1st Cavalry Division (Task Force North); one section supporting the 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery; one-half section supporting the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery; one-half section supporting the 23d Artillery Group; and two sections supporting missions for II Field Force Vietnam Artillery. The battery headquarters remained collocated with Headquarters, 5th Battalion (AW)(JP) 2d Artillery at Duster Compound (YT 129118).

(g) Battery I (SLT) 29th Artillery remained attached to 5th Battalion (AW)(JP) 2d Artillery. The mission of the battery became General Support of II Field Force Vietnam Artillery effective 18 December 1969. Searchlights were deployed to support the following organizations: 1st Infantry Division; 25th Infantry Division; 1st Cavalry Division (Task Force North); 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division; Capital Military Assistance Command; the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Force; the Australian Task Force; the 23rd Artillery Group; 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery; and 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery. The battery headquarters remained at Duster Compound (YT 129118).

(h) Current deployment and individual unit missions of 5th Battalion (AW)(JP) 2d Artillery (to include attached batteries) are listed at Inclosure 2.

(i) Automatic weapons and searchlight deployment positions occupied during the reporting period are portrayed at Inclosure 3.

(4) Visit by ARVN Air Defense Staff Officers: On 22 January 1970 the battalion headquarters was visited by a group of ARVN air defense staff officers. The purpose of the visit by these officers was to receive an orientation in the deployment of automatic weapons in the air defense role. The Operations Section presented a briefing which included the principles and factors influencing air defense design, evaluation of air defenses, and command and control of automatic weapons employed in the air defense role.

(5) Evaluation of Motorized Big Lights: The evaluation of the two motorized searchlights, which started during the previous reporting period, was completed on 22 December 1969. The lights were evaluated at several

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locations, giving the greatest possible diversity in terrain. A final evaluation report was forwarded to the appropriate agencies on 27 December 1969. A copy of this evaluation is at Inclosure 4.

(6) Significant Operations:

(a) 1 November 1969, Nui Ba Den (Rock Crusher) - At approximately 010030H November 1969 the crew of searchlight 341 of Battery I, 29th Arty, while performing perimeter security, received an illumination request from A/4/23 Inf. At the time the company was acting as a blocking force at the southwestern base of Nui Ba Den Mountain. The searchlight crew flashed visible light on the side of the mountain, exposing one VC/NVA approximately 250 meters from their position. The enemy soldier was engaged by the searchlight crew with M-60 machine gun fire. A sweep conducted by A/4/23 Inf at first light resulted in the discovery of one VC/NVA KIA, credited to searchlight 341.

(b) 3 November 1969, XT 788415 - At approximately 031300H November 1969, while serving as part of a ready reaction force at XT 788415, Duster 131 of A/5/2 Arty conducted a reconnaissance by fire into a nearby tree-line, expending 58 rounds of 40-mm ammunition. Shortly thereafter, while traveling to the ready reaction force site, the commanding officer of Task Force Thunder, accompanied by elements of 1/16 Mech Inf Bn, observed two VC/NVA near the side of the road. The VC/NVA surrendered to the Task Force Thunder commander, stating that the firing of the Duster had convinced them to surrender.

c. 4 November 1969, Jong Be - At approximately 040120H November 1969, Camp Martin came under a mortar attack. Quad 33 of Battery C, 71st Arty, and searchlight 252 of Battery I, 29th Arty were in position on the southeast corner of the perimeter. The Quad crew observed the mortar flashes and fired on them, immediately silencing the mortars. The mortar attack was immediately followed by a ground attack on Landing Zone Buttons, an adjacent area where elements of the 1st Cavalry Division were bivouaced. This attack consisted of satchel charges, RPG's, grenades, and AK-47 fire, and continued until 0500H. Quad 33 and searchlight 252, along with Quad 32 on the northwest corner of the perimeter, expended a total of 7300 caliber .50 rounds and 700 7.62-mm M-60 machine gun rounds. There were negative casualties to 5/2 Arty elements. Searchlight 252 received moderate damage, and searchlight 251 received light damage as a result of two mortar rounds landing in their position areas. There were two KIA and 25 WIA in the attack, all of whom were in other U. S. elements, while an estimated 55 VC/NVA were KIA. The AW commander credited the Quad and searchlight

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crews with thwarting the mortar attack and forewarning the elements at LZ Buttons of the impending attack against the LZ.

(d) 10 November, LZ Jerri (XU 965225) - At approximately 100315H November 1969, LZ Jerri came under attack, receiving from 20 to 30 RPG and mortar rounds. Crewmen of Quad 13 of D/71 Arty, located on the perimeter, observed mortar flashes near the treeline northwest of the compound. Quad 13 fired 4,000 rounds of caliber .50 countermortar fire. A subsequent sweep of the area fired upon by the Quad resulted in the discovery of four NVA/VC KIA. AW commander's estimate was four NVA/VC KIA credited to Quad 13.

(e) 10 November 1969, Song Be - At approximately 100400H November 1969, searchlight 251 of Battery I, 29th Arty, was in position on the south berm. While operating the light in the infrared mode the crew observed four personnel moving directly to their front. They requested permission to engage the enemy and received clearance to fire the M-79 grenade launcher. The crew engaged the enemy with M-79 fire, simultaneously illuminating the area with visible light. The enemy immediately disappeared from view. A sweep of the area conducted at 100900H November 1969 resulted in the discovery of two satchel charges and sixty-seven 60-mm mortar rounds. Also discovered were three positions believed to have been prepared for occupation by mortar crews. A demolition team destroyed the ordnance in place. As a result of this action a searchlight crewman and a Quad crewman from I/29 Arty and D/71 Arty, respectively, have been recommended for award of the Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Achievement. The commanding officer of the supported unit, 6/27 Arty, credited these men with aborting an attack by fire against the 8"/175-mm howitzer positions at Song Be.

(f) 11 November 1969, Landing Zone Jerri - At approximately 110215H November 1969 LZ Jerri came under a heavy barrage of mortar, RPG, and small arms fire. From a position on the western perimeter, Quad 24 of Battery D, 71st Arty, engaged mortar positions approximately 75 meters from the northwest side of the perimeter. Quad 13, in position on the southern perimeter, engaged small arms and RPG positions in a treeline in front of its position. The attack continued until 0235H. Results were five US KIA and 10 WIA. Three of the 10 US WIA were from 5/2 Arty. One Quad received light damage and one searchlight was a combat loss. A sweep, conducted at first light, resulted in more contact with the enemy. A final sweep of the area resulted in the discovery of several VC/KVA KIA, one of whom was credited to Quad 24 of Btry D, 71st Arty, by the officer in charge of the landing zone.

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(g) 12 November 1969, Lai Khe Base Camp - At approximately 120200H November 1969, searchlight 111 of Battery I, 29th Arty was in position on the northern perimeter of Lai Khe Base Camp when the bunker next to the searchlight position began receiving AK-47 fire from a location approximately 50 meters to its front. The searchlight crew observed the AK-47 flashes and illuminated the area with visible light. One individual was observed and engaged by the searchlight crew with M16 fire. A sweep of the area, conducted at first light, resulted in the discovery of 1 VC/NVA KIA, credited to the searchlight crew.

(h) 20 November 1969, FSPB Grey - At 201840H November 1969, FSPB Grey came under a mortar/RPG attack, with the base receiving approximately 30 rounds of mixed 82-mm mortar and RPG fire. Dusters 141 and 142 of D/5/2 Arty, occupying positions on the perimeter, returned fire at the suspected launch sites. The incoming fire ceased immediately. The Dusters were credited by the American advisor with assisting in the suppression of the mortar and RPG fire. Results of the attack were 17 Royal Thai Army Volunteer Force personnel WIA.

(i) 20 November 1969, FSPB St. Barbara - At 202130H November 1969, while performing perimeter security duty at FSPB St. Barbara, the crew of Duster 122 of C/5/2 Arty observed approximately five VC/NVA 150 meters to the front of their position. Duster 122 immediately opened fire, expending 244 rounds of 40-mm ammunition. A subsequent sweep of the area resulted in the discovery of one VC/NVA KIA. The infantry commander at FSPB St. Barbara credited Duster 122 with one enemy soldier KIA.

(j) 26 November 1969, FSPB St. Barbara - Throughout the hours of darkness of 26-27 November, Quads 41, 42, 43, and 44 of Battery D, 71st Artillery conducted harassment and interdiction fire missions, expending 11,200 caliber .50 rounds. A sweep of the area conducted at first light resulted in the discovery of one VC/NVA KIA by a caliber .50 round. The body was found in a treeline approximately 600 meters to the front of Quad 43. Quad 43 was credited with the kill by the fire support base commander.

(k) 3 January 1970, FSPB Harris - At 032215H January 1970 the crew of Duster 111 of B/5/2 Arty detected a light and movement approximately 300 meters outside the perimeter at FSPB Harris (XT 418122). Permission to fire the Duster and small arms was denied due to the proximity of another patrol base. Permission was granted, however, to fire M-79 rounds at the suspected enemy position and the Duster crew fired 12 rounds of M-79 ammunition. A sweep of the area, conducted on 5 January 1970, resulted

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in the discovery of one VC/NVA KIA, credited to the crew of B-111. Also found were three CHICOM grenades attached to the dead enemy soldier's body.

(l) 5 January 1970, Trang Bang Bridge (XT 501194) - At 050405H January 1970, searchlight 361 of Battery I, 29th Artillery, was operating in the infrared mode (wide angle) in conjunction with snipers from 2/12 Inf. The crewman observed movement at a range of 400 meters and so notified the elements of the 2/12 Inf. at the bridge. A sniper, using a starlight scope, engaged the enemy with M14 rifle fire. A sweep of the area at first light resulted in the discovery of one VC/NVA KIA and one AK-47 rifle captured.

(m) 9 January 1970, FSPB Harris - At 092100H January 1970 FSPB Harris received small arms fire from three positions. B111 and B112 from B/5/2 Arty, positioned on the perimeter, returned fire with 40-mm guns and M60 machine guns. The enemy fire ceased immediately. The infantry commander credited the Dusters with stopping the small arms attack.

(n) 12 January 1970, YS 457478 - At 121400H January 1970, a small detachment, led by a platoon leader of C/5/2 Arty, was conducting a reconnaissance of the area in the vicinity of YS 457478. During the reconnaissance the detachment discovered a cache in one of a group of abandoned huts. The cache contained the following: 42 x 60mm mortar rounds (HE), 4 x 60mm training rounds, and 100 extensions for M1 rifle grenades. The cache was destroyed in place.

(o) 131030H January 1970, Cong Thanh District - On 13 January 1970, two Dusters from D/5/2 Arty swept the area in the vicinity of YT 120110 with elements of the Cong Thanh Regional Forces. The sweep resulted in the discovery of a cache containing the following: One claymore mine, 100 rounds of M16 ammunition, one rifle grenade, and six pounds of documents. Also found on the sweep were two bunkers and three fighting trenches.

(p) 31 January 1970, Dau Tieng Bridge - At 312100H January 1970, while providing bridge security at the Dau Tieng Bridge (XT 482469), the crew of searchlight I152 of Battery I, 29th Arty, observed 4-6 VC/NVA at a range of 400 meters. The personnel were observed by the use of the searchlight's white light. Friendly forces in the area responded with small arms, artillery, and gunship fire. Results of the engagement were two confirmed VC/NVA KIA.

(7) Ammunition Expenditures: During the reporting period the battalion expended a total of 151,981 rounds of 40-mm ammunition. Battery

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D, 71st Artillery, expended 738,900 rounds of caliber .50 machine gun ammunition. The 31 searchlights of Battery I, 29th Artillery operated for a total of 10,262 hours.

c. Logistics/Maintenance:

(1) Maintenance Problems:

(a) The flow of replacement M42A1 Dusters continues at a rate which precludes an overmileage or overage track problem. However, the maintenance problem presented by the high mileage traveled by the combat vehicles of the battalion still exists. The overweight problem experienced with the 2½ ton trucks from the machine gun battery has been greatly reduced by the recent issue of 24 five-ton trucks. Experience with the five ton trucks has uncovered another problem, however. The rigidity of these trucks has caused severe vibrations in the M55 machine gun mounts, resulting in broken machine gun parts in several instances. It is felt that this problem can be eliminated by the installation of rubber bushings between the mounting bracket and base of the M55 mount. A program to install such bushings has been initiated.

(b) The lack of replacement AN/MSS-3 searchlights continues to be a maintenance problem. No replacement searchlight sets were received during the reporting period; however, four sets were laterally transferred from the 4th Battalion (AW)(SP) 60th Artillery when this battalion relieved that organization of the mission of supporting the 1st Cavalry Division. This raises the number of AN/MSS-3's in the battalion to 30. If replacement searchlight sets are not received the down time of the systems now in operation will undoubtedly increase as additional hours are placed on them.

(2) Repair Parts Supply: The supply system continued to show improvement during the reporting period. All batteries have continued to place emphasis on proper repair parts procedures. Frequent battalion inspections have also contributed to the low zero balance percentile presently enjoyed by the battalion.

(3) Summary of Overall Maintenance Posture:

(a) Close surveillance of battery maintenance programs by the battalion maintenance sections and assistance visits by higher headquarters continued through the reporting period. Detailed inspections of both the maintenance and maintenance management programs of all batteries also continued.

(b) In summary, except for the AN/MSS-3 searchlights, the overall maintenance posture of the battalion continued to show improvement. Upon

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receipt of replacement AN/MSS-3 searchlights, the maintenance posture of the searchlight battery will also be greatly improved.

(4) Total mileage traveled for the months of October, November, and December for each battery.

<u>Headquarters Btry</u>	$\frac{1}{2}$ ton	$\frac{3}{4}$ ton	$2\frac{1}{2}$ ton	5 ton	M42A1	VTR	WR
October	11331	7286	4266	-----	-----	---	447
November	10587	6733	5757	-----	-----	---	820
December	<u>9188</u>	<u>6617</u>	<u>5033</u>	-----	-----	---	<u>293</u>
TOTAL	31106	20636	15056	-----	-----	---	1560

Battery A

October	2214	7711	2090	38	3376	0	0
November	2026	2968	5638	93	4813	170	129
December	<u>2406</u>	<u>3311</u>	<u>5840</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>6396</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>34</u>
TOTAL	6646	13990	13568	201	14585	340	163

Battery B

October	4206	4928	4212	0	4464	275	0
November	2486	2860	4926	0	5954	179	0
December	<u>2759</u>	<u>2313</u>	<u>10584</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6251</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	9451	10101	19722	0	16669	547	0

Battery C

October	4122	786	4964	630	1834	0	0
November	4138	193	3759	260	2263	14	0
December	<u>4493</u>	<u>2388</u>	<u>4307</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	12753	3367	13030	1015	6007	79	0

Battery D

October	4986	5474	7262	309	3622	159	0
November	6671	4091	6932	52	1559	147	0
December	<u>8849</u>	<u>3993</u>	<u>6768</u>	<u>332</u>	<u>4510</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	20506	13558	20962	693	9691	396	0

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<u>Battery D 71st Arty</u>	<u>1/4 ton</u>	<u>3/4 ton</u>	<u>2 1/2 ton</u>	<u>M-55</u>
October	1691	838	705	22925
November	1980	1508	378	20033
December	<u>1753</u>	<u>353</u>	<u>907</u>	<u>16178</u>
TOTAL	5429	2699	1990	59136

<u>Battery I 29th Arty</u>				<u>SLT</u>
October	5800	4269	363	7892
November	5076	6830	1703	8679
December	<u>3315</u>	<u>3518</u>	<u>349</u>	<u>7872</u>
TOTAL	14191	14617	2415	24443

2. (C) Section 2: Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations

a. Personnel: None

b. Intelligence: None

c. Operations:

(1) Administrative Moves of Track Vehicles

(a) OBSERVATION: The movement of track vehicles over heavily traveled roads can be extremely dangerous to other vehicles and pedestrians.

(b) EVALUATION: Track vehicles present a special safety hazard on the highway. Factors contributing to this fact are the size of the vehicle, the difficulty in steering a track vehicle as compared to a wheel vehicle, and the generally poor driving conditions in Vietnam. Experience has shown that a wheel vehicle preceding a track vehicle, or several track vehicles, can effectively control the speed of the track vehicles and also alert the track vehicle driver to potentially dangerous conditions.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That a wheel vehicle proceed the convoy whenever track vehicles are administratively moved over secure roads.

(2) Employment of 23" Xenon Searchlights In Mobile Towers

(a) OBSERVATION: A recent innovation has been the use of searchlights mounted in mobile towers.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 5th Battalion (AW)(JP) 2d Artillery
for the Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

(b) EVALUATION: By removing the searchlight from the one-quarter ton vehicle and placing it in a mobile tower, the 1st Infantry Division has introduced a new method of employing the searchlight. Although it is quite common to helilift the complete AN/MSS -3 searchlight set, it is quite uncommon to helilift a searchlight mounted in a tower. This technique combines the advantage of mobility with that of having a searchlight mounted in a tower high enough to provide complete coverage for a fire support base.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That units employing searchlights be advised of the capabilities of a mobile tower searchlight system.

(3) Employment of M42A1 Dusters with Tanks

(a) OBSERVATION: Dusters have been successfully employed with M48 tanks on "Fire Ball" missions.

(b) EVALUATION: Recent employment of M42A1 Dusters in conjunction with M42 Tanks in the vicinity of Nui Ba Den Mountain has shown the effectiveness and compatibility of the two weapons. "Fire Ball" missions are characterized by a continuous high volume of fire on the target area. The high rate of fire of the M42A1 provides this high volume of fire while the tanks provide the large caliber fire against hard targets. The Dusters are fired while the tanks are being reloaded, thus providing continuous fire on the target.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That units employing M42A1's be advised of the advantages to be gained by employing Dusters with tanks on "Fire Ball" type operations.

d. Organization: None

e. Training: None

f. Logistics: None

g. Communications: None

h. Materiel: None

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AVFB-FAG-C

1 February 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 5th Battalion (AW)(JP) 2d Artillery
for the Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

1. Other: None



GERALD CHILDRESS

LTC, ADA

Commanding

4 Incl

1. Battalion Organizational Structure
2. Unit Deployment and Missions
3. Automatic Weapons and Searchlight
Positions Distribution
4. ARPA Motorized Big Light Evaluation

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AVFB-PAC (1 Feb 70) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 5th Battalion (AW)(SP), 2d Artillery for
Period Ending 31 January 1970. RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)(U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY, APO 96266

TO: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFBC-RE, APO
96266

This headquarters has reviewed the quarterly report of the 5th Battalion
(AW)(SP), 2d Artillery and concurs with operations and lessons learned
during the reporting period.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

for *Raylonce W Hill Capt*
R. G. PARRISH
LTC, FA
Adjutant

AVFBC-RE-H (1 Feb 70) 2nd Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 5th Battalion (AW)(SP) 2d Artillery
for the Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)(U)

DA, HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266 13 MAR 1970


THRU: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC(DST), APO 96375

Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with the Operational Report -
Lessons Learned of the 5th Battalion, 2d Artillery for the period ending
31 January 1970.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


W. C. BARTEL JR
CPT AGC
Asst AG

AVHGC-DST(1Feb70) 3d Ind


SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 5th Battalion (AW) (SP) 2d Artillery
for the Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 20 MAR 1970

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970 from Headquarters, 5th Battalion (AW) (SP) 2d Artillery and concurs with the comments of indorsing headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


D. MURRAY
CPT, ABC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
5th Bn (AW) (SP) 2d ARTY
HQ IIFV

GPOZ-DT (1 Feb 70) 4th Ind (U)


SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 5th Battalion (AW) (SP), 2d Artillery
for Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 31 MAR 1970

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER INCHIEF:


C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

5TH BN (AW)(SP) 2D ARTY
 MTOE 44-85G 0-37
 W-2 E-653
 (Total Assigned and Attached)

0-47 W-2 E-935

HQ AND HQ BTRY

0-13 W-2 E-113

BROKEN LINES INDICATE
 ATTACHED UNITS

BTRY D, 71st ARTY
 (MACHINE GUN)

24 M55's

0-2 E-140

BTRY I, 29th ARTY
 (SEARCHLIGHT)

36 AN/MSS-3's

0-8 E-42

M42 (AW)(SP) BTRY

A

16 M42A1's

0-6 E-135

B

C

D

Incl 1

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DEPLOYMENT AND MISSIONS OF INDIVIDUAL UNITS OF 5TH BATTALION (AW)(SP) 2D ARTILLERY

UNIT	Location of deployment as of 31 January 1970		MISSION
HQB	Long Binh	YT 128114	GS, II FFV
Btry A	Phu Loi	XT 863159	GS, 1st Inf Div
Sec 11	Phu Loi	XT 863159	CE, RRF, RC
Sec 12	FSPB Lobo	XT 867372	PS, CE, RRF, RC
Sec 13	FSPB Thunder II	XT 785555	PS, CE, RRF, RC
Sec 14	FSPB Lobo	XT 867372	PS, CE, RRF, RC
Sec 21	FSPB Thunder II	XT 785555	PS, CE, RRF, RC
Sec 22	Phu Loi	XT 863159	CE, RRF, RC
Sec 23	FSPB Thunder II	XT 785555	PS, CE, RRF, RC
Sec 24	Lai Khe	XT 775376	CE, RRF, RC
Btry B	Cu Chi	XT 650160	GS, 25th Inf Div
Sec 11	Tay Ninh	XT 165515	PS, CE, RRF, LID, FB, SD
Sec 12	FSPB Hampton	XT 417238	PS, CE, RRF
Sec 13	FSPB Buell	XT 212533	PS, CE, RRF, LID, FB
Sec 14	Hobo Woods	XT 654263	PS, CE, RRF, SD
Sec 21	FSPB Houston	XT 436073	PS, CE, RRF
Sec 22	Cu Chi	XT 650160	PS, CE, RRF
Sec 23	Cu Chi	XT 650160	PS, CE, RRF
Sec 24	FSPB Harris	XT 148122	PS, CE, RRF, SD
Btry C	Camp Price	XT 042115	GS, II FFV Arty
Sec 11	FSPB St. Barbara	XT 279680	PS, 2/32 Arty
Sec 12	Duster Compound	YT 128114	PS, CE, RRF, 5/2 Arty
Sec 13	FSB Rita	YT 735252	PS, CE, RRF, 23d Arty Gp
Sec 14	FSB Rita	YT 735252	PS, CE, RRF, 23d Arty Gp
Sec 21	Binh Phouc	XS 160550	PS, CE, RRF, SD, 3d Bde, 9th Inf Div
Sec 22	Tan An Airfield	XS 545648	PS, CE, RRF, SD, 3d Bde, 9th Inf Div
Sec 23	Nui Dat	YS 448676	PS, CE, RRF, SD, ATF
Sec 24	Thu Thua City	XS 543722	PS, CE, RRF, SD, 3d Bde, 9th Inf Div
Btry D	FSPB Concord	YT 034174	GS, II FFV Arty
Sec 11	FSPB Concord	YT 034174	PS, CE, RRF, SD, 23d Arty Gp
Sec 12	FSPB Michelle	YT 285098	PS, CE, RRF, 7/8 Arty
Sec 13	Quan Loi	XT 816902	PS, RRF, 1st Cav Div
Sec 14	FSPB Thunder IV	XT 763893	PS, RRF, 23d Arty Gp
Sec 21	Phuoc Vinh	XT 972498	CE, RRF, RC, 1st Cav Div
Sec 22	FSPB Grey	YS 207933	PS, RRF, RTAVF
Sec 23	LZ Buttons	YU 138072	RRF, 1st Cav Div
Sec 24	FSPB Concord	YT 034174	PS, CE, RRF, SD, 23d Arty Gp

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UNIT	Location of deployment as of 31 January 1970		MISSION
Btry D (MG)			
71st Arty	Duster Compound	YT 128114	GS, II FFV Arty
Sqd 11-12	Duster Compound	YT 128114	PS, CE, RRF, 5/2 Arty
Sqd 13-14	Long Binh	YT 061116	PS, CE, RRF, II FFV Arty
Sqd 21-22	Duster Compound	YT 128114	PS, CE, RRF, 5/2 Arty
Sqd 23-24	Cu Chi	XT 650160	CE, RRF, 25th Inf Div
Sqd 31	Phouc Vinh	XT 972498	CE, RRF, 1st Cav Div
Sqd 32	LZ Buttons	YU 138072	RRF, 1st Cav Div
Sqd 33-34	Song Be	YU 143072	PS, RRF, 6/27 Arty
Sqd 41-42	FSPB St. Barbara	XT 279680	PS, RRF, 2/32 Arty
Sqd 43-44	FSPB St. Barbara	XT 279680	PS, RRF, 2/32 Arty
Sqd 51-52	Xuan Loc	YT 474096	PS, CE, RRF, 23d Arty Gp
Sqd 53-54	Cu Chi	XT 650160	CE, RRF, 25th Inf Div
Sqd 61	Fort Compton	YU 050150	RRF, 1st Cav Div
Sqd 62	LZ Ike	XT 344713	RRF, 1st Cav Div
Sqd 63-64	Duster Compound	YT 128114	PS, CE, RRF, 5/2 Arty
Btry I (SLT)			
29th Arty	Duster Compound	YT 128114	GS, II FFV Arty
SLT 111	FSPB Thunder I	XT 788456	PS, 1st Inf Div
SLT 112	Phu Cuong Bridge	XT 808137	BS, 1st Inf Div
SLT 121	FSPB Normandy III	XT 904318	PS, 1st Inf Div
SLT 122	Lai Khe	XT 775376	PS, 1st Inf Div
SLT 131	FSPB Thunder II	XT 785555	PS, 1st Inf Div
SLT 132	Dau Tieng	XT 494477	PS, 1st Inf Div
SLT 151	Lai Khe	XT 775376	PS, 1st Inf Div
SLT 152	Dau Tieng	XT 494477	PS, 1st Inf Div
SLT 161	Phouc Vinh	XT 972498	PS, 1st Cav Div
SLT 162	Quan Loi	XT 816902	PS, 1st Cav Div
SLT 211	Nha Be	XS 920820	PS, CMAC
SLT 212	FSPB St. Barbara	XT 279680	PS, 2/32 Arty
SLT 221	Song Be	YU 143072	PS, 6/27 Arty
SLT 222	Tan An Bridge	XS 549656	BS, 3d Bde, 9th Inf Div
SLT 231	FSPB Rita	YT 735252	PS, 23d Arty Gp
SLT 232	Bearcat	YS 160990	PS, RTAVF
SLT 241	LZ Ike	XT 344713	PS, 1st Cav Div
SLT 242	Phuoc Vinh	XT 972498	PS, 1st Cav Div
SLT 251	Nui Ba Ra	YU 184068	PS, 1st Cav Div
SLT 252	FSPB St. Barbara	XT 279680	PS, 2/32 Arty
SLT 261	Song Be	YU 143072	PS, 6/27 Arty
SLT 262	FSPB Gettysburg	XT 358876	PS, 25th Inf Div
SLT 312	Ben Luc Bridge	XS 616759	BS, 3d Bde, 9th Inf Div
SLT 331	FSPB Wood III	XT 442345	PS, 25th Inf Div
SLT 332	FSPB Lee	XT 190559	PS, 25th Inf Div
SLT 341	FSPB Gettysburg	XT 358876	PS, 25th Inf Div
SLT 342	Binh Phouc	XS 610550	PS, 3rd Bde, 9th Inf Div

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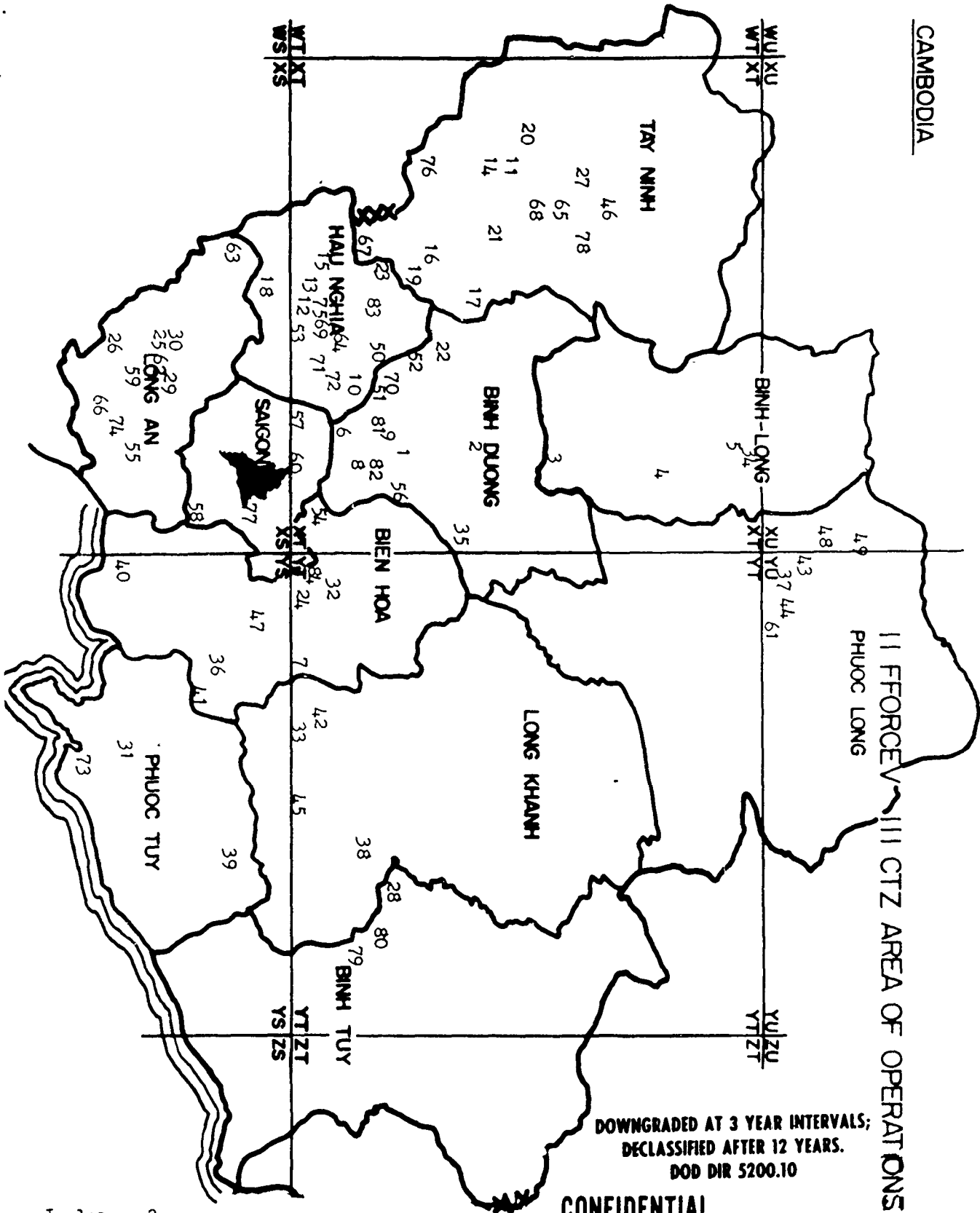
UNIT	Location of deployment as of 31 January 1970		MISSION
SLT 351	FSPB Kotrc	XT 358147	PS, 25th Inf Div
SLT 361	FSPB Pershing	XT 517259	PS, 25th Inf Div
SLT 362	FSPB Hunter	XT 372423	PJ, 25th Inf Div
SLT 411 (30")	Horseshoe Bend	YS 497622	PS, 1st ATF

Mission Key:
PS - Perimeter Security
BS - Bridge Security
CE - Convoy Escort
RRF - Ready Reaction Force
RC - Road Clearing
LID - Lightning Immediate Destruction
FB - Fire Ball
SD - Search & Destroy

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Inlosure 3

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KEY TO INCLOSURE 3
5TH BATTALION (AW)(SP) 2D ARTILLERY
SUMMARY OF POSITIONS OCCUPIED
DURING THE PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 1969 - 31 JANUARY 1970

1. Lai Khe	XT 775376	43. FSB Fort Compton	YU 050150
2. FSPB Thunder I	XT 788456	44. Song Be (Camp Martin)	YU 143072
3. FSPB Thunder II	XT 785555	45. Xuan Loc	YT 474096
4. FSPB Thunder III	XT 768655	46. LZ Ike	XT 344713
5. FSPB Thunder IV	XI 763893	47. Bearcat	YS 160990
6. Phu Loi	XT 865158	48. LZ Jerri	XU 965225
7. Duster Compound	YT 128114	49. Bo Dop	XU 970248
8. FSPB Lobo	XT 868368	50. FSPB Hunsley	XT 598270
9. Ben Cat	XT 732331	51. Ben Chua	XT 551361
10. Cu Chi	XT 650160	52. Old French Fort	XT 542376
11. Nui Ba Den	XT 269563	53. Devil's Island	XT 503014
12. FSPB Fleek	XT 489048	54. Khanh Van	XI 892192
13. FSPB Houston	XT 436073	55. Rach Kien	XS 740699
14. Tay Ninh	XT 165515	56. FSPB Normandy III	XT 904318
15. PB Harris	XT 418122	57. Phu Cuong Bridge	XT 808137
16. FSPB Hull	XT 263380	58. Nha Be	XS 920820
17. FSPB Rollins	XT 296485	59. Tan An Bridge	XS 549656
18. Tra Cu	XS 478984	60. FSPB Elaine	XT 559047
19. NDP	XT 383392	61. Nui Ba Ra	YU 183068
20. FSPB Washington	XT 146568	62. Ben Luc Bridge	XS 616759
21. FSPB Buell	XT 212533	63. FSPB Gettysburg	XS 358876
22. Dau Tieng	XT 494447	64. Trung Lap	XT 592217
23. FSPB Hampton	XT 417238	65. FSPB Lee	XT 191558
24. Camp Price	YT 045116	66. Binh Phouc	XS 610550
25. Thu Thua	XS 548703	67. FSPB Kotrc	XT 358147
26. Tan An Air Field	XS 545648	68. FSPB Hunter	XT 371422
27. FSPB St. Barbara	XT 279680	69. Trang Bang	XT 500193
28. FSB Ann	YT 562379	70. FSPB Tennessee	XT 583333
29. FSB Ben Luc	XS 635767	71. FSPB Devins	XT 547178
30. Thu Thua City	XS 543722	72. FSPB Patton I	XT 593217
31. Nui Dat	YS 448678	73. Horseshoe Bend	YS 497622
32. FSPB Concord	YT 034174	74. Tan Tru	XS 654623
33. FSB Michelle	YT 285098	75. FSPB Pershing	YT 517259
34. Quan Loi	XT 816902	76. FSPB Rawlins	XT 296485
35. Phouc Vinh	XT 972498	77. Newport Bridge	XS 892941
36. FSPB Grey	YS 207933	78. FSPB Bragg	XI 342580
37. LZ Buttons	YU 138072	79. FSPB Rita	YT 735252
38. FSPB Libby	YT 444288	80. FSPB Dianne	YT 730260
39. NDP	YS 464785	81. Thi Tinh River	XT 720360
40. FSPB New Indigo	YS 060380	82. NDP	XT 800245
41. FSPB Hope	YS 253704	83. FSPB Wood III	XT 442345
42. FSB Verna	YT 273103	84. HQ, II FFV	YT 055133

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Appendix 1 to Incl 3

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BATTERY I (SEARCHLIGHT), 29TH ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96266

AVFB-FAG-SL

27 December 1969

SUBJECT: Advance Research Project Agency Motorized Big Light Evaluation (U)

Commanding Officer
5th Bn (AW)(3P) 2d Arty
ATTN: AVFB-FAG-C
APO 96266

1. (U) In accordance with confidential letter your headquarters, AVFB-FAG-C, dated 12 Sep 69, Subject: Advance Research Project Agency Motorized Big Light Positioning and Evaluation Plan, the following report is submitted.

2. (C) The objective of the evaluation was to determine the operational capabilities, limitations, reliability, and maintenance requirements of the ARPA Motorized Big Light. The evaluation was initiated on 14 Sep 69 and terminated on 22 Dec 69.

3. (C) The Motorized Big Light systems were deployed at the following positions to achieve maximum utilization of the system while achieving the listed objectives: Duster Compound, Song Be, FSPB St. Barbara, FSPB Hunsley, FSPB Jackson, and FSPB Normandy III. The tactical mission performed at each location was to provide illumination for perimeter surveillance.

4. (C) The following is a list of operational capabilities noted during the evaluation:

a. Range of white light as viewed from the bunker line was found to be 300 meters. Maximum range at which light was projected was 3000 meters.*

b. Range of infrared black light was determined as approximately 300 meters utilizing M-18 binoculars. In this mode of operation the system is only compatible with pure infrared vision devices.*

c. The range of infrared pink light was determined to be 1300 meters. This observation was made while viewing a tree line 1400 meters from the light from a position on the bunker line 1300 meters from the tree line.

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27 December 1969

SUBJECT: Advance Research Project Agency Motorized Big Light Evaluation (U)

In this mode of operation the system is compatible with M-18 binoculars, metascope, and starlight scopes.*

*NOTE: All ranges are dependent on weather conditions, existing ambient light, vegetation, terrain contour, due to the line of sight requirement and the diffusion of the beam of light caused by smoke, rain, wire, shrubs, etc.

d. The lamp can be traversed throughout 270 degrees in azimuth and 30 degrees in elevation from the horizontal plane. This combined with the wide 120 degree beam gives the light a 360 degree capability with which, in a small fire support base, it can provide illumination for all sectors of the perimeter from a single location.

e. The entire system to include personnel and baggage can be redeployed by any of the following modes of transportation: Two sorties of C7A's, two 2 1/2-ton trucks, or one CH47.

5. (C) Maintenance procedures utilized were those specified in operator manuals with the following modifications:

a. Special attention to lubrication of azimuth and elevation gears was required due to the heat generated by the lamp melting the grease off these components and periodically causing them to bind.

b. Following heavy rains electrical components required additional maintenance prior to using the light. Seals on these components were not water tight resulting in possible shorts and damage to light as well as danger of electrical shocks to personnel.

6. (C) Limitations of the Motorized Big Light consisted of:

a. Mobility of the MBL within positions was limited due to the lack of proper equipment for positioning the 30 kw power supply (3400 lbs) and the time requirement for assembly and disassembly of the system (approximately 90 minutes for assembly).

b. Time required to change filters is 5 minutes using insulation when handling the filter after extended operation.

c. A red glow is visible at a range of approximately 150 meters when the light is operating in the infrared pink light mode.

d. The MBL lacked azimuth scales for coordination with observers, radars, and tactical operation centers. Approximate coordination using aiming points was the only means available.

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27 December 1969

SUBJECT: Advance Research Project Agency Motorized Big Light Evaluation (U)

7. (C) The reliability of the system was found to be deficient in the following areas:

a. Three generators failed due to one or more of the following reasons: governor, alternator, regulator, solenoid.

b. One MBL fell due to the vertical lock (safety latch) failing while the tower was being elevated to its maximum height. Damage consisted of broken lamp head yoke, ignitor compartment dented, and upper telescopic section bent.

c. One MBL fell when the second vertical lifting cable snapped while the tower was being elevated. Damage consisted of lamp and filter broken, lower telescopic section of the tower bent, lamp head yoke sheared, and electrical compartment of the lamp head assembly dented.

d. Useful lamp life was found to be approximately 360 hours at which time the intensity of the emitted light was approximately 1/3 of its original intensity.

8. (C) Training consisted of three days of reading manufacturer's operator's manual and three days of on-the-job training under ARPA supervision.

9. (C) Recommendations for improvement of the system are:

a. Re-evaluate strength requirements for the lifting cable.

b. Construct azimuth and elevation scales for the lamp head assembly.

c. Substitute a trailer mounted generator for the palletized generator to facilitate positioning requirements.

d. Consideration should be given to increasing the candlepower of the light to develop a greater range capability. Combining the capability to raise the tower to heights up to 42 feet, azimuth scales and greater range capabilities would increase the usefulness of the light by enabling long range observation from a fire support base as well as coordination with ambush patrols and listening posts. Coordination could also be established with snipers positioned at greater distances from a friendly position.

10. (C) Comparison with the 23 inch searchlight indicates that the 23 inch searchlight can, at minimum, match the performance of the MBL and in most areas performs with better results. The 23 inch searchlight has a greater range capability and is readily mobile by the vehicle organic to the system, one CH47 or one C7A. By repositioning it in a fabricated tower it can cover 360 degrees. The system has azimuth scales as well as the capability to

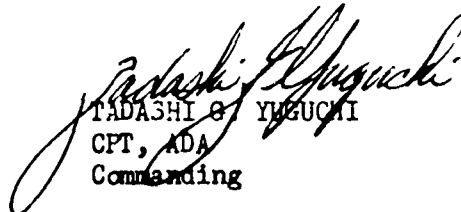
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27 December 1969

SUBJECT: Advance Research Project Agency Motorized Big Light Evaluation (U)

instantaneously change filters. The system is more durable and less susceptible to having moisture accumulate in its electrical components although this is still a problem during heavy monsoon rains.


TADASCHI O. YUZUCHI
CPT, ADA
Commanding

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Security Classification

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HQ, OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310		CONFIDENTIAL
		2b. GROUP
		4
3. REPORT TITLE		
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 5th Battalion, 2d Artillery		
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)		
Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70.		
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)		
CO, 5th Battalion, 2d Artillery		
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13. ABSTRACT		

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